

BEING BROOKMAN

With more than 6 million views in 12 years, the creator of Hartford's most-read blog talks about the quest for transparency, accountability, and ethics

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

“THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ON THIS BLOG ARE STRICTLY THAT, MY OPINIONS.” With that disclaimer, Kevin Brookman launched his Hartford-centric blog in June 2008, opening a door—and often a can of worms—by shining a light on the follies within city government and dedicating himself to providing the public with a level of transparency that had previously been lacking. His impetus at the time was to shine a light and start a conversation on the missteps of two former mayors, specifically Perez’s charges of corruption and Segarra’s misuse of the city credit card he used to entertain colleagues at expensive champagne and caviar restaurant dinners. The “opinions” blossomed into something bigger over the ensuing years. The frankness of the blog tapped into the frustrations of Hartford residents and city employees. The former were fed up with being stonewalled by local government when seeking information, and the latter noticed many things awry in their workplaces, including questionable practices, waste, and in some cases—corruption. They contacted Brookman and once assured that their identities would be kept strictly confidential, provided him with documentation (most of it classified) that otherwise would never see the light of day; he would then post it on the blog; wethepeoplehartford.blogspot.com. In addition, he sometimes uses the Freedom of Information Act to get files on issues of concern to the public, and also shares those.

Brookman (which is how most people refer to him, as in “Did you read Brookman yesterday?”) is perceived as a modern-day Robin Hood by some and a thorn in the side of others who’d rather have him muzzled. Consequently, he’s received threats over the years from folks in both high and low places, but he’s grown an armor and shrugs them off. Not in it for any personal gain, his mission is a simple one: put the truth out there. And how does he ascertain what’s true? In the following interview, he opens up about the policies and procedures he has in place to maintain the integrity of the blog.

AG: How many verifications do you need to have before publicly sharing information

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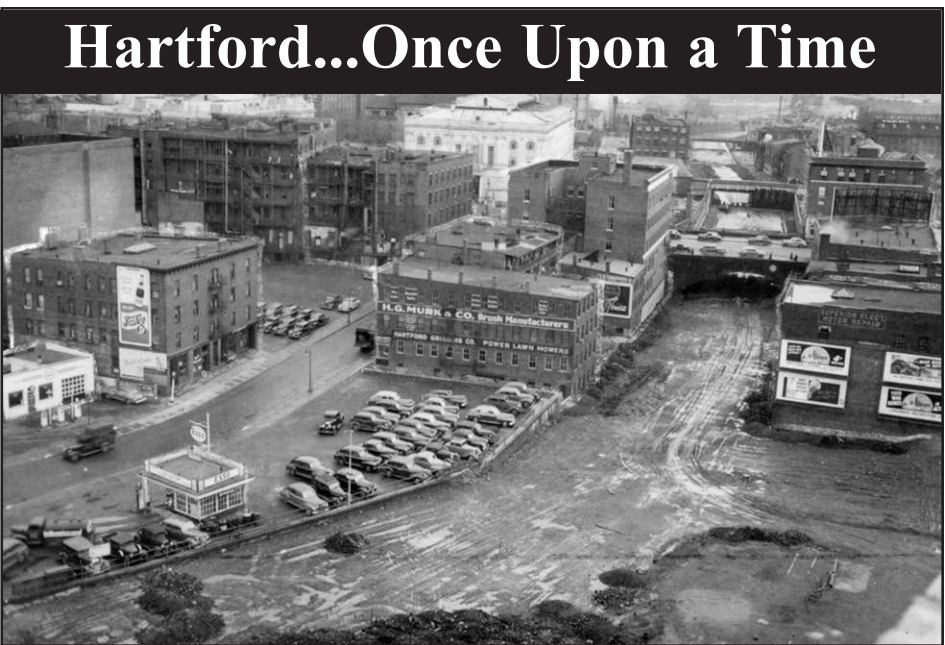


Happy Thanksgiving from a Good Neighbor!

For several years, Clark Street resident Kerry Foster Sr. (above, right) and his family have spent the Thanksgiving holiday delivering and serving meals and distributing free clothes at local homeless shelters. When COVID-19 restrictions made that act of kindness difficult this year, the Foster family decided to provide over 60 turkey dinners to their neighbors across the street at the CRT Generations Housing Complex, which was built for grandparents raising their grandchildren. Shown at left getting ready to take his Thanksgiving dinner home is Fernando Rios; at center is volunteer Lakeitha Ingram, who helped pass out the food. (Hart photo)

Free Food Distribution at Rentschler Field

FoodShare of Greater Hartford is continuing its bi-weekly distribution of free food packages to those who have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Food distribution will be from 8:30 am - 12 noon every Tuesday and Thursday from December 1 to December 22 at Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford. There will be one allocation of food per vehicle so that as many people are fed as possible. To make a donation to FoodShare, go to <http://site.foodshare.org/> and click “DONATE.”



This aerial shot was probably taken sometime in the late 1940's as the Park River has been covered over and construction has just started on the Whitehead-Conlin Highway. The course of the river (and the highway) can be seen quite clearly, coming in from the bottom left corner and curving under the Main Street Bridge at right-center. Most of the building in this photo have since been demolished. The exceptions are the buildings flanking the highway just before the Main Street Bridge and, of course, City Hall, which is the large white building at center at the top of the photo. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford Public Library's Hartford Collection)

NEWS BRIEFS

Winterfest Canceled Due to COVID-19

The iQuilt Partnership announced Monday, November 23, that the Winterfest Skating Rink in Bushnell Park will not open for the 2020-2021 season. Citing the rise in the positive cases in Connecticut, organizers have decided to cancel this year and focus on bringing Winterfest Hartford back next year with expanded programming and an extended skating season. Winterfest Hartford has brought free ice skating, free skate rentals, and free learn-to-skate lessons to Bushnell Park for the past ten years.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner at AHCC

Asylum Hill Congregational Church (AHCC) will prepare and share a FREE Thanksgiving meal with its neighbors in the church parking lot at 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, from 1:00 – 3:00pm. The dinners, which will be provided, prepared, and served by church volunteers, serve four people. The church will provide 250 meals and they will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last. This free community Thanksgiving meal is an extension of the free Sunday Community meals that Asylum Hill Congregational Church has provided each week since the spring, partnering with local, small businesses and restaurants and non-profits as well as church member donations to provide meals for those in need.

Free Coats For Kids Friday at Cathedral

The CONNECTICUT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Cathedral of Saint Joseph Chapter will host a give-away of winter coats for children on Friday, November 27, from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph (use rear entrance off Asylum Avenue), Hartford Coats will be given out on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last. Each child must be in attendance and accompanied by an adult. One coat per child. Adult must know child's coat size. If you are driving, please park in the Cathedral parking lot off Asylum Avenue. For

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OPINION:
Public Enemy #2: Reckless Driving

BY DONNA SWARR

The newly-announced public safety campaign directly addresses the issue of reckless driving in Hartford. It states that the City Council will be re-examining how Hartford addresses public safety. Seeking input and asking residents if they want to be involved in the effort so close to the holidays, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, may appear to be an impossible hurdle. I am hoping that in addition to residents volunteering, assistance from Trinity College’s Center for Hartford Engagement and Research will also be solicited. They have students who can devote time and energy as well as some tools and resources that would greatly expand the city’s capacity in addressing this issue. I don’t want to diminish the need for input from residents as they are the ones who will provide the information, but managing that data will take considerable effort. They can also do research concerning solutions.

I moved to Hartford in 2005. At that time, Shultas Place had its rough edges up near Maple Avenue, but overall it was quiet. In the past six months, I have experienced uncontrolled racing every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. One person was decapitated on Wethersfield Avenue less than 500 feet from my house. I have parades of ATVs on my street roaring so loudly that I can’t hear the person next to me. A police officer was hit by a car at the corner of Shultas Place and Franklin Avenue three weeks ago. The racing never stops. I see people drive right through red lights while police sit in their cars in full view and there is no response or recourse. I see left turns on red lights, driving in bike lanes to pass, and using turn lanes to pass. The police do nothing. Their reports on traffic stops is infuriating.

Designing this campaign will take a lot of negotiating with residents and those who can make changes to build consensus, but it is worth the effort. Solutions need to be found. People are being killed.

We all know that the reason they do them is to get grant money, but they do nothing to help manage traffic. The latest memorial in my neighborhood is on Locust Street. The victim’s family and friends have erected a memorial on UPS property to help them mourn their son who died because he was racing and struck a utility pole.

When I was on the ATV task force many years ago, the police representative’s continued resistance to finding solutions was truly a taxing experience. But without their participation, this effort will go nowhere. It will very much matter who participates from Emergency Services, the Hartford Police Department, and the Department of Public Works. I urge the Council to seek the right people who’ll have the mindset to find solutions. The recommendations from the task force were never adopted by the City Council.

Instead, the proposals were on the agenda for almost four years and none of the proposed ordinances were ever adopted. We’ve heard from numerous residents about their desire for less police intervention in our communities. There is great and often valid distrust due to the terrifying national narrative for violence against people of color for minor infractions. Designing this campaign will take a lot of negotiating with residents and those who can make changes to build consensus, but it is worth the effort. Solutions need to be found. People are being killed.

Those interested in becoming involved in this effort are invited to contact City Council President Maly Rosado at 860-757-9578, or email maly.rosado@hartford.gov.

To Grandmother’s House We Go
A child’s Thanksgiving on Ward Street

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

I remember Mama. I remember Aunt Mary, Aunt Margaret, Aunt Vicky, Aunt Shake, Aunt Marie. And there were my four older girl cousins—three teens and one a young married; Joanie, Sally, Anita, and Diana. That was 10—count ‘em—10 women putting together Thanksgiving dinner in the smallish kitchen of a 5-room flat in the mid-1950s. They were dressed up for the holiday but wore aprons as they moved around, edging by each other between stove, refrigerator, sink, and pantry, hustling to cook the food, fill bowls and platters, set the table, arrange the chairs. Grandma hovered nearby as the others did the preparation while they laughed, and chattered away in English, which Grandma didn’t really understand. She’d ask in Armenian what they were talking about. Someone would tell her in Armenian and then they’d resume their conversation in English. As an immigrant clinging to the old country ways, this food—turkey, gravy, stuffing—was foreign to her, as was



the holiday, so she stayed out of it. The adult men would be in the living room (the ‘front room’—remember that?) on chairs and the sofa (“divan”). Dad, Uncle George, Uncle Jack, Uncle Sark, Uncle Mike, and Uncle Arthur, as well as the young men of the family; George Junior, Harold, Dave, Bob, and Ray, and Diana’s husband Norman. That makes 12. The fathers smoked cigarettes and cigars, drank some whiskey, and argued about a variety of subjects. Then there were the younger kids, under- teens who were playing outside before dinner; Jack, Jimmy, Jane, Anne, and Richie. Total: 28 people and a dining room table that could squeeze in at most a dozen if you didn’t mind banging elbows with your neighbor every time you used your knife & fork. So we ate in shifts. The men sat down first to the fresh, hot feast, then returned to the living room and

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Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

A Conservative’s Dilemma

As a Barry Goldwater youth, a Richard Nixon campaigner, owner of a half-dozen Ronald Regan books – and as an attendee of two Republican National Conventions, hoping for a Republican State Representative for my district (the 1st) probably should be a priority. However, we’ve known the family of Matt Ritter, the current Representative from the district who was recently designated Speaker of the House, for many years and the difference between being represented by a freshman Republican and a neighbor who is also one of the most powerful legislators in the state does give one pause in the partisan era.

Our first go-round with the Ritter clan was as the Republican Party’s “sacrificial lamb” candidate for State Representative against the incumbent, George Ritter (Matt’s grandfather). Back then (the 1970s), George Ritter was well known and respected in Hartford for his service on City Council and at the State Legislature. A constant city booster, he, of course, was well qualified and certainly a better candidate than myself. However, he was happy to have a contest, even against a newcomer to Hartford and Connecticut. The campaign was less like a contest and more like a graduate seminar in local politics. And we remained friends until his passing in 2010.

Then, in 1981, along came George’s son, Tom Ritter, who served as State Representative from 1981 to 1999 and as Speaker of the

House from 1993 to 1999. Just about everyone agrees that Hartford benefitted greatly from his bipartisan efforts. For all of Governor Rowland’s faults, he worked with a Democratic legislature led by Ritter to do good things for Hartford. Tom and I had a bit of a go-around with the historic battle over the opening of a “social club” for those with mental issues on Woodland Street. He did not appreciate his phone number being given out to the little old ladies who did not want to be neighbors to the 500 troubled clients of a social service agency trying, rarely with much success, to solve the various problems of those with mental issues, substance abuse issues and criminal records. After quite a battle, the facility moved elsewhere.

Today, although we disagree with Matt on many issues, the idea of having the representative of our district as Speaker Of The House is certainly comforting. Whether Speaker-designate agrees with you or not, he will call you back and discuss your concerns. If he can help, he will. If you’re misinformed, he’ll let you know and give you the real story. He is open to opposing opinions and many times has modified his stance based on calls from his constituents.

When asked about his political future, he said, “My only goal is my father’s position [Speaker of the House].” Well, he’s already achieved that and he’s still quite young. Who knows what the future holds?



Access Health Chief Visit Hartford

In an effort to encourage uninsured Connecticut residents to get affordable healthcare, James Michel (above, center) CEO of Access Health CT (AHCT), has been visiting in-person enrollment centers throughout Connecticut. The deadline to enroll in AHCT this year is Tuesday, December 15. Coverage will start on January 1, 2021. On Tuesday, November 17, Michel visited the Community Renewal Team (CRT) facility at 330 Market Street in Downtown Hartford, where he was joined by State Senator Douglas McCrory (above, right). AHCT is the state’s official health insurance marketplace, where state residents can shop, compare and enroll in quality healthcare plans; and it is the only place where you can qualify for financial help to lower your costs, or be eligible for free or low-cost coverage through HUSKY Health (Medicaid/Children’s Health Insurance Plan/CHIP). The CRT enrollment center is open Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30 pm. Go to crtct.org or call (860) 461-5119. NOTE: You must have an appointment to speak to a representative who can answer your questions and help you enroll in a plan. For more information about AHCT, go to AccessHealthCT.com, (Hart photo)

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Library Gets Grant For New Digital Literacy Training Program

Hartford Public Library received a \$211,194 grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services to fund a new digital literacy training program.

The funded projects were selected from 1,701 applications. The grants will support only 68 museum and library service projects that will take place over the next two years.

The funding will enable HPL to provide critical digital literacy skills training for Hartford residents.

In Hartford, a city with a poverty rate of 31%, the Digital Divide continues to be a pervasive issue and contributes to the persistent opportunity gap facing large segments of our community. The share of Hartford households with Internet access is 57.7% and at least 20,000 households are without Internet access.

In addition, the pandemic has exposed the fact that U.S. industries are lacking in employing adequate

numbers of skilled workers able to respond to the high demand for services and goods related to keeping healthcare workers, patients and the general public, healthy and secure. HPL's training program will join the effort to create and advance programs that expand economic opportunities for workers and their families while boosting local businesses' capacity.

The training will utilize a flexible Blended Learning approach, combining online educational coursework with remote live daily tutoring, including weekends and evenings. "We believe, individualized attention provides our learners not only with academic and technical support, but more importantly, it offers ongoing encouragement during these difficult times," said Homa Naficy, executive director of The American Place.

This project will deliver integrat-

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Kevin Brookman

Continued from page 1

that's been provided to you by a source?

KB: If I can't verify it on my own then I want to have it from at least two independent sources—not by hearsay or collusion.

AG: *Trust is a two-way street. Do you ever suspect that a source is just setting you up?*

KB: Trust is the backbone of the blog. If people didn't call me I'd have nothing to blog about..

AG: *Were there any times when you had to retract or apologize for a blog post after discovering that it contained misinformation?*

KB: That rarely happens. And I always try to be as aboveboard as possible.

AG: *For years, you broke big stories days and even weeks before the Hartford Courant picked up on them but received no credit in that paper for being the original source of the story. That seems to have changed in the past couple of years, and now they mention it when information they print first appeared in your blog.*

KB: That's the gratifying part.

AG: *Some of the information and official classified documents you're the first to post are eye-opening, including that of HPS Assistant Superintendent Eduardo Genao, revealing a paper trail of coverups, promotions, and reassignments over the years due to inappropriate behavior with students and staff before finally being charged with endangering a minor. You also provided an internal HPS document that listed the staggering number of \$100,000+ salaries at Central Office.*

KB: Nobody at Central Office would provide that information, so I had to get it by alternate means. One of the biggest reasons people follow the blog is because of the documents posted. The evidence is right there. The same with Chief Thody's accident this summer. Someone called me who had copies of all the reports, 911 calls, and timelines, and said they'd drop them off at my house.

Those went right out on the blog.

AG: *Speaking of HPD, in the past some have referred to you a "police apologist", which in recent times doesn't sit well in light of incidences nationally and locally of overreactions by officers toward people of color. Ironically, since the advent of Chief Jason Thody's tenure you have openly criticized operations at HPD, earning you more credibility and respect from the public, but more rancor from High Street.*

KB: The number of calls I now get from sources at HPD is way up. When I started the blog Darrell Roberts was the Chief and he said to me "I'd love to know who your sources are", and I said "Chief, you'll never know." When Chief Rovella retired, he told incoming Chief Rosado "Don't ever lie to Brookman." But the PAL program at HPD is close to my heart. I love what they do for the kids.

AG: *What do you think is the most pressing change needed in next year's charter revision?*

KB: The Board of Education should be all elected—no mayoral appointments. The ability to appoint the 5-member majority is wrong. Let the community have the say in who should run the schools.

AG: *You once served on the Democratic Town Committee but ultimately resigned. What happened?*

KB: I also served on the Republican Town Committee—one of the few people who ever did that. But during the time on the DTC, Vicki Fennell and I were running education seminars for the members, talking about the organization's ethics and responsibilities. The DTC leadership didn't like that and they made their displeasure known.

AG: *I've noticed that when you post a specific topic, often some disgruntled commenters will "hijack" the thread and turn it into a grievance forum about the police or fire department, irrelevant to the post. How do you deal with that.*

KB: (Laughing) That's the nature of the internet. Those things are going to happen.

Please join us!



beyond words 2020

A Time of Giving
& Sharing

December 3, 2020 - 7PM

Beyond Words is a free half-hour long online celebration of Hartford Public Library. Hear heartwarming stories of how HPL has impacted people's lives all throughout the city, offering education, entertainment and opportunities for everyone. Check it out on HPL's YouTube Channel.

www.youtube.com/users/HPLCT

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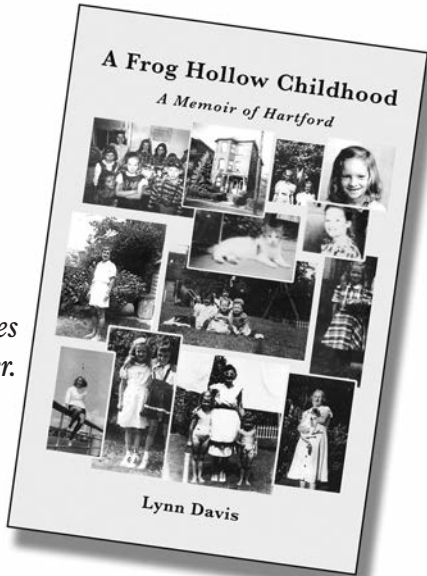
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Urban Gardeners Unite at KNOX Harvest Fair



Among those on hand at the KNOX Harvest Fair were Makiah Morris, Aarmere Jackson, Daniel Roberts, Anthony Griffin, Darius Cicero and Herb Virgo from the Youth Agricultural Business Training (After School) Program “Building Tomorrow’s Entrepreneurs, Today.” The program is a collaboration between Affecting New Thoughts Business Concepts and the Keney Park Sustainability Project. Affecting New Thoughts Business Concepts is committed to youth and their families’ economic growth. Providing a structured, innovative, nontraditional, demonstrated community-based curriculum designed to assist youth and their families with the principles of business ownership while Building Tomorrow’s Entrepreneurs. Youth learned the basics of beekeeping, animal husbandry, mushroom cultivation and micro-green production. (Hart photo)

KNOX, Inc. held its annual Harvest Market on Saturday, November 21, at its greenhouses off Laurel Street in Hartford. The event, which was held following COVID-19 restrictions, featured vendors selling natural foods and products, local community groups and even two live alpacas.

The winners of the HUGs (Hartford Urban Gardeners) were announced at the fair. This year’s winners are:

Private Home/Garden

- Joanna Ameljan*
- Alina Ciscel
- Dan Haim
- Estella Knight
- Karen & Gary O’Maxfield
- Susan Peters*
- Adila Reis
- Sevita Roophnath
- Betsy Blum-Schatzlein & Craig Schatzlein
- Virginia Seely
- Doreen Wright

Community/Organization

- Debra St. Germain and her grandchildren Jaliya, Janessa & Carmelo
- Park Terrace
- Ricardo Wijindal

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Litter in the Street No Foolin’

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

I feel a little guilty because I purchased three turkeys from Costco today. Two of the poor hens are not for me, though. They will be made into cat food as I normally do with the chicken thighs I source there for the cats. I mention this because it’s important to provide quality food for our pets and for cats in particular, because they are obligate carnivores, 100% fresh meat is the optimum food to provide them. When you consider the .99 cent a pound human-grade chicken or in this case, turkey meat versus the cheapest crapola 5.5 ounce cans for .70 a can, and believe me, the only meat in that stuff is meat byproduct (like pus-filled entrails and other animal discards from slaughterhouse remains) mixed with unusable vegetable and boiling out any nutrients in high temperatures, and costing about \$2.25 a pound, you can see the wisdom in making your own in large quantity and freezing it in Ball Jars.

I hope to soon begin a podcast showing how to make your own cat food. “It’s not brain surgery” is what Dr. Lisa Pierson (easily found in online search) said that interested me to buy a meat grinder, study the necessary ingredients to add, and have at it. My cats lick the bowls leaving nothing behind. How many of you will lick your bowls this coming non-Thanksgiving Day?

I did mention litter and littering in Hartford. You might have thought I forgot. Folks are now tossing food wrappers out their windows as they drive down the street. I will hypothesize and suggest that new arrivals in Hartford are creating this litter instead of longtime residents.

I once offered a plan to city officials a few years ago to address this problem of littering. And none of my ideas cost the city a dime. Because all the extra dimes must be spent servicing the Yard Goats Park debt courtesy of former mayor Pedro Cigars. But no one wanted to listen to little ole me. I’ll express it again.

They only way to address this problem is to attempt changing the mindset of people.

How about if grade school kids, once schools are finally closed then reopened after Covid 19, were sent out in the school yard to pick up sanitized litter purposely scattered around, then returned to class rooms and discussed how cool it was to pick up litter, then maybe, just maybe, these kids will go home to their parents and the next time the family is driving around Hartford having a family dinner of McDonald’s burgers and fries and daddy is about to toss the emptied food wrappings out the window, but missy or junior says, “No daddy, that’s not right. We picked up litter in our school yard last week for a class project.”

It might work. Why not try it since nothing else is working? I had the ear of a Board of Education member once on this topic. I was given their contact but after repeated attempts to follow-up, I gave up. Nobody gives a damn. Or they think that old methods that have failed can be tried again.

heroes wanted.

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Surjit Kaur

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Robert Lee McCants (20-00903)

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Francesca Knerr, Esq.,
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF OF Clova L. Henton, AKA Clova Lorraine Henton (20-01081)

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El Informativo Latino



Winterfest en Hartford cancelado para la temporada 2020-2021

La tradición anual del patina sobre hielo gratuito en Bushnell Park no será parte del próximo invierno después de que los organizadores del Winterfest Hartford anunciaran la cancelación el lunes del evento de este año. La Asociación iQuilt había estado buscando recaudar donaciones para ayudar a organizar el evento de este año.

Winterfest espera regresar el próximo año para la temporada 2021-2022.. "Desafortunadamente, no podremos traer esta increíble actividad familiar de regreso a la ciudad capital debido al creciente número de casos de COVID", dijo la directora ejecutiva de iQuilt Partnership, Jackie Mandych. "Winterfest Hartford es una maravillosa tradición de Hartford, y volverá el año que viene, más grande y mejor." *By Iris Rodriguez*

Help Wanted: Construction Worker

RMS Companies is seeking to hire an experienced and responsible construction site worker join our construction team in Downtown Hartford, CT. Responsibilities: Operate a variety of tools, clean and prepare construction sites as needed, shovel/carry/load materials to and from construction areas, follow all safety procedures on the job site and report violations immediately to mgmt. Desired Job Skills & Qualifications: Valid driver's license, one or more years of experience in construction, ability to lift heavy equipment, excellent stamina, high school diploma or equivalent. Compensation: Hartford Living Wage or Commensurate with Experience. Hours: Base of 40 hours / week. RMS is committed to giving priority-hiring consideration to Hartford residents and an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Contact: Call (203) 968-2313 or Email: inquiries@rms-companies.com

Se busca ayuda: trabajador de la construcción

RMS Compañías busca contratar a un trabajador de obras de construcción responsable y con experiencia que se una a nuestro equipo de construcción en Hartford, CT. Responsabilidades laborales: Operar una variedad de herramientas limpiar y preparar los sitios de construcción según sea necesario, mover materiales hacia y desde el áreas de construcción, seguir todos los procedimientos de seguridad en el sitio de trabajo e informar las violaciones de inmediato a la gerencia. Deseos Habilidades y calificaciones laborales: Licencia de conducir válida, Uno o más años de experiencia en construcción, Capacidad para levantar equipo pesado, Excelente Resistencia, Diploma de escuela secundaria o su equivalente Compensación: Salario digno acorde a la Ciudad de Hartford o acorde a la experiencia, Horas: Base de 40 horas / semana, RMS se compromete a dar prioridad a los residentes de Hartford y a un empleador de acción afirmativa / igualdad de oportunidades. Contacto: Llame al (203) 968-2313 correo electrónico: inquiries@rms-companies.com

El estado publicó el viernes una nueva guía sobre el coronavirus que requerirá el uso de máscaras faciales en gimnasios y centros de fitness

Según un comunicado de la oficina del gobernador Ned Lamont, las nuevas reglas del sector requerirán cubrimientos faciales sin excepciones y reducirán la capacidad de las clases de gimnasio al 25%.

Las nuevas reglas también prohíben todas las actividades deportivas de equipo, excepto a nivel universitario y profesional.

Un "equipo" se define como un

grupo de más de cuatro que participen en una actividad atlética organizada o recreativa y las "actividades" incluyen juegos de práctica, competiciones, campamentos, clínicas y torneos, incluidas formas de participación menos formales.

Las nuevas reglas entrarán en vigencia el lunes 23 de noviembre y estarán activas al menos hasta el 19 de enero. *By Iris Rodriguez*

Gobernador Lamont ordena el cierre de negocios no esenciales

El gobernador Ned Lamont planea ordenar el cierre de todos los negocios no esenciales, e insta a los residentes de Connecticut a quedarse en casa.

Todas las empresas no esenciales deberán tener empleados que trabajen desde casa, dijo el gobernador. Las empresas que no cumplan podrían enfrentar multas civiles, dijo Lamont. Los cierres podrían durar semanas, dijo.

"Esta es una decisión estricta", dijo el gobernador. "Creo que es la correcta".

Las exenciones de la orden incluyen:

- Tiendas de comestibles
- Gasolineras
- Farmacias
- Grandes proyectos de construcción ya en marcha
- Principales instalaciones de fabricación de defensa

Se les pide a los trabajadores que trabajan en estos negocios esenciales que controlen por sí mismos su temperatura para detectar fiebre, dijo Lamont. A esos trabajadores también se les pide que eviten grandes reuniones o actividades sociales después del trabajo.

Una cuarta persona en Connecticut murió de coronavirus, según el gobernador Ned Lamont.

El estado ahora tiene 194 casos

confirmados de coronavirus en los ocho condados, dijo el gobernador Lamont.

El condado de New London ha visto su primer caso.

Así es como los casos se desglosan por condado:

- Condado de Fairfield: 122
- Condado de Hartford: 29
- Condado de Litchfield: 8
- Condado de Middlesex: 5
- Condado de New Haven: 23
- Condado de New London: 1
- Condado de Tolland: 4
- Condado de Windham: 2

Los cuatro pacientes que murieron estaban en el condado de Fairfield, según Lamont.

También el viernes, el Departamento de Trabajo del estado anunció que recibió más de 72,000 reclamos de desempleo desde el 13 de marzo, con 16,000 el 20 de marzo.

El estado dijo que 2.500 reclamos son típicos por una semana.

"Continuamos cambiando recursos para dedicar más personal al procesamiento de nuevos reclamos", dijo el Departamento de Trabajo en un comunicado. Además, Lamont ha autorizado el uso de horas extras para ayudar.

By Iris Rodriguez



Diferente RADIO

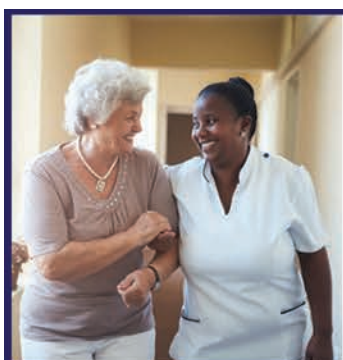
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News Briefs

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questions and more information, contact Mike McGarry, Grand Knight, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, 860-422-7937 (E-mail: mikem1944@aol.com).

Help Decorate Colt Park Saturday

Friends of Colt Park will be holding a decoration making event to provide some cheer along the Colt Park Wethersfield Ave fence and at the East Gate. The event will be held on Saturday, November 28 at 10 am. Meet inside the east gate located at Massek Street/Hendrixcsen Ave. All supplies will be provided. Registration required, please email donnaswarr@gmail.com. Masks required. The community is invited to place hats and scarves on the gingerbread men and snowmen decorations placed at the Wethersfield Ave entrance and east entrance throughout the winter months, for those in need.

Toys Needed for Analeh Toy Drive this Weekend

For the first time in its 11-year history, the Analeh Holiday Toy Drive will have a drive-through toy collection on three different days: November 28 and 29 and December 5. In past years, the toys have been collected at a community banquet, which will be virtual this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those wishing to sup-

port the Toy Drive with a new, unwrapped toy for children ages 5-12 (or a gift card for teenagers) can bring their gifts on one of three dates – Saturday, November 28, Sunday, November 29 or Saturday, December 5 from 12-5 p.m. – to The Hispanic Health Council Drive-Thru Toy Collection Site, 175 Main Street, Hartford. Monetary donations are accepted, as well, and supporters may donate online in advance through the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut at app.mobilecause.com/form/8cl0yg?vid=dw6k8. The Toy Drive is organized annually by the team behind El Show de Analeh, which airs every Saturday at 11 a.m. on Univision and UniMas Channel 18.

City of Hartford Annual Toy Drive

The City of Hartford will be accepting items for its annual Holiday Toy Drive through Tuesday, December 15. New, unwrapped toys for children ages 0-17 can be dropped off during regular business hours, Monday-Friday at the following Hartford locations: Hartford Public Safety Complex, 253 High Street; Hartford City Hall, 550 Main Street (Room 203); Urban League of Greater Hartford, 140 Woodland Street.

Literacy Volunteers Virtual Gala December 5

Literacy Volunteers of Greater

Hartford will hold their annual fundraising gala at 7 pm on Saturday, December 5. Students and staff will describe the impact that improving literacy can have among city residents. A four-course dinner will be available from The Elephant Trail and there will be 100 auction items to bid on. For more information and tickets, go to www.lvgh.org/annual-gala.

Library Digital Literacy Program

Continued from page 3

ed digital and industry-certificate trainings. It will target low income adults enrolled/enrolling in a high school diploma or certificate training program. It will prioritize those individuals residing in Hartford’s federal-ly designated Promise Zone, which encompasses one of the highest rates of poverty and digital exclusion in the region and nation.

The online coursework provides lessons in computer basic literacies and productivity skills as well as industry certificate trainings. The coursework may be completed at the Library or any place with Internet access. Once enrolled, progress is monitored by staff from The American Place. Students will be contacted regularly to make sure they are on track to finish the program in a timely manner.

For more information about Hartford Public Library, visit hplct.org. For more information about The American Place, visit tap.hplct.org

Thanksgiving on Ward Street

Continued from page 2

continued as before; one or two would inevitably fall asleep. The children were seated next, ate, and then sent outside to play. Finally, the kitchen crew had their turn. The turkey was picked over, the side dishes no longer hot, and the gravy jelled, but at least they had a short time off their feet. Back in the kitchen they washed and dried dishes, pots & pans, swept the floor, put on the coffee, and sliced the cakes and pies. The wives ritually served their husbands dessert in the living room, like Armenian geishas.

At around 6 p.m., they laid the table again with the cold supper; Armenian food this time prepared by Grandma. String cheese, yeast breads, stuffed grape leaves, spiced dried beef, fruit, nuts, more coffee, and a box of chocolates that Aunt Mary, who was the

bookkeeper for a Boston candy store, had brought. Those who hadn’t yet departed for home gathered around the table for spirited games of Michigan Rummy and Pokeno—adults, teens, and kids all together at last. Tired, yet sated not only with food and drink and noise and work, but with the yearly reaffirming that we were family—a large, loud, and in some cases eccentric family. To the child I was, this was love. This was belonging. And in these strange and strained and isolated times, it’s a comforting memory to revisit. I wish the same for all of you. Happy Thanksgiving.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Karlonzo A Taylor (20-00939)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 16, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Francesca Knerr, Esq., Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is: Rene Rosado Attorney Rene Rosado 312 Park Road, Suite 205 West Hartford, CT 06119

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295-297 Garden St. Hartford

Large well maintained 3 bedroom apartments, 1st & 2nd floor, quiet building. Cold flat \$900 monthly. 1 month security 1 month rent. Section 8 Welcome. Call 860-882-3650.

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Rooms for rent in Hartford’s West End. Utilities included. \$150 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

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Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

Rooms for Rent East Hartford

Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-308-5455.

Apartamentos Para Alquiler:

Apartamentos modernos localizados en Hartford. Studios, Uno, Dos, Tres y Cuatro cuartos dormitorios disponibles. Estacionamiento disponible. ** Aceptamos Section 8**. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Para mas informacion por favor llamar al 860-549-3000.

Apartments for Rent

Efficiency, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms available. Walking distance to shopping, on bus line, off-street parking. Small pets welcome. Section 8 Welcome. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Call 860-549-3000.

Room for Rent

Room for rent. 45 Love Lane, Hartford, CT. \$130/week. Furnished room, utilities included, kitchen privileges. Call 860-965-7688.

Hartford South End

1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Appliances included. Parking. Call John 860-805-4111.

Room for Rent

45 Love Lane, Hartford. \$130/week. Furnished room, kitchen privileges, utilities included. Call 860-965-7688.

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